

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MANAGU 02963 301824Z

45

ACTION ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 AID-20 IGA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01

SS-15 USIA-12 COME-00 EB-11 LAB-06 SIL-01 IO-13 NIC-01

RSR-01 /137 W

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R 301800Z JUN 73

FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1914

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

USCINCSO FOR POLAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANAGUA 2963

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT PGOV NU

SUBJECT: WEEKLY POLITICAL SUMMARY JUNE 22-29, 1973

REF: MANAGUA 2883

1. THE CONSTRUCTION WORKERS STRIKE FOR HIGHER WAGES WHICH BEGAN JUNE 13 AND GENERALIZED JUNE 20 CONTINUES UNABATED. LABOR MINISTER NAVARRO RICHARDSON RETURNED DIRECTLY FROM THE GENEVA ILO CONFERENCE JUNE 26 TO PERSONALLY MEDIATE NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN UNION AND INDUSTRY REPRESENTATIVES. NAVARRO TOLD THE AMBASSADOR JUNE 27 THAT HE BELIEVES THE WORKERS MAY AGREE TO RETURN TO WORK JULY 2 WHILE NEGOTIATIONS FOR A FINAL SETTLEMENT CONTINUE. GENERAL SOMOZA HAS TOLD AMBASSADOR THAT HE SUPPORTS AN INCREASE FOR THE WORKERS BUT IS SEEKING SOME WAY TO MINIMIZE THE COMMUNIST UNION RECEIVING CREDIT FOR IT.

COMMENT: IF AN INTERIM AGREEMENT IS REACHED, IT WILL PROBABLY PROVIDE FOR AN ARBITRATION PANEL THAT WILL MAKE A FINDING IN FAVOR OF AN INCREASE WHICH ALL CONCERNED WILL GRUDGINGLY

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PAGE 02 MANAGU 02963 301824Z

ACCEPT. END COMMENT.

2. JOINING DECLARATION BY P.J. CHAMORRO AND SACASA PLANNED: THE FIRST PUBLIC STATEMENT OF IMPORTANT ELEMENTS OF THE "OTHER OPPOSITION", WHICH HAVE BEEN STRUGGLING FOR UNITY SINCE BEFORE THE EARTHQUAKE, WILL APPEAR IN TOMORROW'S JUNE 30 LA PRENSA IN A JOINING DECLARATION SIGNED BY DISSIDENT CONSERVATIVE PEDRO JOAQUIN CHAMORRO AND DISSIDENT LIBERAL RAMIRO SACASA. AN ANALYSIS OF THE DECLARATION AND ITS IMPACT WILL FOLLOW BY SEPTTEL AFTER PUBLICATION.

3. BANANA WORKERS FEDERATION APPROVED: THE LABOR MINISTRY APPROVED THE FEDERATION OF BANANA WORKERS OF CHINANDEGA. APPROVAL OF THE FEDERATION, MADE UP OF WORKERS EMPLOYED BY NICARAGUAN GROWERS ASSOCIATED WITH THE STANDARD FRUIT COMPANY IN EL VIEJO AND TONOLA, OPENS THE DOOR FOR AFFILIATION WITH THE CONFEDERATION DE UNIFICACION SINDICAL (CUS) AND REPRESENTS A SIGNIFICANT ADVANCE FOR THE FREE AND DEMOCRATIC LABOR MOVEMENT IN NICARAGUA.

4. HOSPITAL WORKERS STRIKE MANAGUA HOSPITAL: JUNE 25 RESIDENTS, INTERNS, AND STAFF OF MANAGUA'S ONLY FUNCTIONING GENERAL HOSPITAL, VELEZ PAIZ, STRUCK, DEMANDING INCREASED SALARIES AND BETTER WORKING CONDITIONS. THE STRIKERS CITED THE TREMENDOUS OVERLOAD AT THE HOSPITAL, UNSANITARY CONDITIONS, NON-FUNCTIONING BATHROOMS, INADEQUATE LABORATORIES, A LACK OF SURGICAL INSTRUMENTS, A BREAK-DOWN IN THE FLUOROSCOPE IN SURGERY, AND MANY OTHER DEFICIENCIES. DOCTORS AT THE HOSPITALS IN LEON AND JINOTEPE BEGAN SYMPATHY STRIKES ON JUNE 26 SUPPORTING THEIR MANAGUA COLLEAGUES AND PROTESTING CONDITIONS AT THEIR OWN HOSPITALS, WHICH, WHILE NOT AS BAD AS IN MANAGUA, ARE STILL DEPLORABLE ACCORDING TO THE STRIKERS. SOME PATIENTS HAVE LAUNCHED A HUNGER STRIKE SUPPORTING THE DOCTORS. THE STRIKE IS DIRECTED AGAINST THE NATIONAL ASSISTANCE COUNCIL HEADED BY MRS HOPE SOMOZA. THE STRIKERS HAVE HAD ONE TALK WITH THE LABOR MINISTER BUT THE PROBLEM REMAINS UNRESOLVED. THE GON IS KEEPING VELEZ PAIZ OPEN USING SOCIAL SECURITY DOCTORS AND NATIONAL GUARD DOCTORS. COMMENT: PART OF THE PROBLEM STEMS FROM THE FACT THAT YOUNG INTERNS AND RESIDENTS ARE STILL BEING PAID THEIR PART TIME PRE-EARTHQUAKE SALARIES EVEN THOUGH THEY HAVE BEEN WORKING FULL TIME SINCE DECEMBER. THE NET RESULT OF THE STRIKE TO DATE IS THAT NICARAGUA'S VERY LOW LEVEL OF MEDICAL CARE HAS SUNK EVEN LOWER IN A MAZE OF BUREAUCRATIC MIX-UPS AND CONFUSIONS INVOLVING THE

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 MANAGU 02963 301824Z

HEALTH MINISTRY AND THE NATIONAL ASSISTANCE COUNCIL. END COMMENT.
SHELTON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 JUN 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: collinp0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973MANAGU02963
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: RR
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: MANAGUA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t1973061/aaaaaacr.tel
Line Count: 110
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 73 MANAGUA 2883
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: collinp0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16-Jan-2002 by willialc>; APPROVED <26 FEB 2002 by collinp0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: WEEKLY POLITICAL SUMMARY JUNE 22-29, 1973
TAGS: PINT, PGOV, NU
To: SECSTATE WASHDC GUATEMALA SAN JOSE TEGUCIGALPA SAN SALVADOR USCINCSO FOR POLAD
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005